

Executive Registry

11-3000

15 APR 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert Gray
Secretary to the Cabinet
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT: Cabinet Paper 59-82/2, Public Advisory
Committees

1. In accordance with the request in your letter of February 2, 1959 and your subsequent discussions with our General Counsel, I have directed that all components of this Agency report to me their utilization of public advisory committees. I have now received reports on all public advisory committees utilized by this Agency and have instructed that they be made a matter of permanent record in the files of my Executive Officer. I have further directed that any new committees proposed for use by this Agency be similarly recorded.

2. None of the committees currently utilized is specifically authorized by law, but I have determined that all are in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on this Agency by law. Those committees which fall within the definition of "industry advisory committees" meet all five of the criteria set forth in the recommendation of Cabinet Paper 59-82/2. Of those not coming under the "industry advisory committees" definition, the great majority meet all these same criteria. In two cases in which committees study certain Soviet problems under external research contracts, the requirements of the third, fourth, and fifth criteria would render effective utilization of the committees impracticable, and they are, therefore, waived in the public interest.

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3. A review of the Agency's utilization of public advisory committees does not indicate any instances involving conflict of interest. In this regard, Central Intelligence [redacted] requires that any information of a possible conflict of interest shall be reported immediately to the Inspector General and the General Counsel. In addition, the members of the committees are for the most part consultants to the Agency, and appointment as a consultant in each case requires my approval or that of the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

4. The panels that fall within the technical definition of "industry advisory committees" are convened for the sole purpose of assisting in the assessment and evaluation of foreign intelligence data, and we can see no possible anti-trust aspect arising in their utilization.

5. In my opinion, this Agency's utilization of public advisory committees is well under control under the concept set forth in the Cabinet Paper, and I propose to issue no new directives other than the one requiring reports to my Executive Officer.

SIGNED

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

OGC:LRH:jeb

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ER w/Cabinet Paper

✓EO w/reports from Agency components

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General Counsel